

1977 as well as the American Farm Bureau Federation's National Outstanding Young Farmer Award in 1984. He has continued to operate his family's fourth generation farm near Seneca, Illinois where he and his wife grow corn, soybean, alfalfa, and have a cow-calf operation.

Philip has served five consecutive two-year terms as president of the ILFB which is the maximum he can serve under ILFB rules. Under his leadership, the ILFB has become an even more important voice in informing local, state, and national elected officials about the issues confronting the agriculture industry. His first-hand knowledge of farming has been instrumental to the organization in identifying and advocating on major challenges. In addition to his tenure as President of the ILFB, Mr. Nelson has served as President of the Illinois Soybean Association, President of the LaSalle County Farm Bureau, Vice President of the American Soybean Association, and Chairman of the American Farm Bureau Federation's Swine Advisory Committee.

While he is leaving his post at the ILFB, I am confident his expertise and leadership on agriculture issues will continue to be put to good use. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 16th District of Illinois, I wish to express our deepest thanks to Philip Nelson for his exemplary efforts to advocate for the Illinois agriculture community.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF CORPORAL GEORGE CONKLIN

##### HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2013*

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life, service, and sacrifice of a constituent, Corporal George Conklin. Mr. Conklin of Phelps, New York, enlisted in the United States Army in 1949 at the young age of seventeen to answer our nation's call to service during the Korean War. Tragically, it took sixty-four years for him to return home.

George Conklin was serving in the 7th Infantry Division's 31st Regimental Combat Team as a Private First-Class in Korea when he disappeared on December 2, 1950. Wounded in the leg, he was loaded onto a transport truck for evacuation, but soon thereafter, he and his colleagues went missing. It was not until the conclusion of the war in 1953 that Corporal Conklin was formally classified as "Killed In Action." The U.S. Army posthumously promoted him to the rank of Corporal and awarded him the Purple Heart.

Corporal Conklin's family never gave up hope that one day he would return home. The family waited for over sixty years until this past September, when his niece, Karen DesCamp, finally received the news that she and George's other relatives had waited a lifetime for. After one of George's brothers donated a DNA sample to the Pentagon, Corporal Conklin's remains were positively identified at a laboratory in Hawaii.

It is with humble appreciation that I acknowledge Corporal George Conklin's return home to Ontario County. Hundreds of civilians and military veterans joined a military honor guard to give him a final welcome home as the plane carrying his casket touched down in Roch-

ester. He was then laid to rest next to his predeceased parents and two brothers in upstate New York.

I cannot begin to imagine the feelings and emotions that have afflicted his family over the past six decades, but I am relieved to know that Corporal Conklin is finally back where he belongs, resting peacefully beside his loved ones. His ultimate sacrifice for the good of our nation and preservation of our freedom will never be forgotten.

#### HONORING FRED MEURER ON 27 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CITY OF MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA

##### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2013*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of a truly remarkable public servant who I am proud to call a friend. Fred Meurer is retiring from the position of City Manager for the City of Monterey, California after holding the job since 1991. That is a remarkably long tenure in any job. In the field of city management, it is unheard of. But for those of us who have had the honor and pleasure of working with Fred over the years, those twenty-two years are a testament to his tremendous ability and professionalism.

Fred joined the City of Monterey in 1986, initially as the Special Projects Manager in the City Manager's office, and then as the City's Public Works Director for the next five years. In July of 1991, the City Council appointed Mr. Meurer to the position of City Manager. Since his appointment, Mr. Meurer has been actively involved in fostering working relationships between business districts, residential districts and City Hall. He has overseen the re-development of the City's residential neighborhoods and business districts. Neighborhood policing, waterfront acquisition, the main street program, tourism development, historic preservation programs and development of the education and research economic clusters have been instrumental in diversifying Monterey's economy. The success in this effort has financed the City's program for developing "preventive" programs in policing, fire protection, community services, recreation, public works and other public services.

Fred has been actively involved in developing cooperative relationships between the City and the Department of Defense (DoD) activities in Monterey in an effort to further increase DoD mission effectiveness while reducing their operating costs. Fred was responsible for germinating an idea—which Congress enacted in 1994 as a pilot program—of allowing military installations in Monterey County, California, to purchase a range of maintenance and municipal services from local government agencies in the County. Over the subsequent years, the Army Audit Agency has consistently validated cost savings to the Army and "the Monterey Model," as it became known in the Pentagon, became a permanent national program in 2013.

In conceiving this program, Fred's goal was to provide the same high quality municipal services to DoD activities and personnel as the City provides its civilian neighborhoods, while saving the City money by spreading its

overhead over a larger base. Similar cooperative service agreements have been negotiated with other cities in the region. These inter-governmental partnerships have also helped broaden the economic base of the City.

Recognizing the value of integrated municipal services between military installations and the city brings not only financial benefits to both parties but strengthens the town-base relationship. Fred nourished that relationship and looked for ways for the town and the military to interact seamlessly. This inter-relatedness was especially evident during the 1995 and 2005 BRAC rounds when the BRAC Commission determined that, because of the inherent value of the community contribution to the functioning of the local installations, there was no way to reproduce those functions elsewhere and those installations had to remain open and in Monterey.

Fred graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1966, and received graduate degrees from Stanford University in Water Resources Planning and Civil Engineering in 1971. He served overseas assignments in Germany, Viet Nam and Korea. His final active duty tour was as Director of Public Works and Housing at the former Ft. Ord. He retired as a Colonel from the Army in 1986.

Mr. Speaker, Fred Meurer is the epitome of a model public servant who brought wisdom, professionalism, creativity and problem solving skills to the job of City Manager of Monterey and leaves a legacy of accomplishments that not only benefit the residents of Monterey but also serve as a model of sound civic management for others to learn from and emulate. In his 1961 State of the Union address to Congress, President John F. Kennedy commented on his administration's commitment to civil service and the following words, "Let the public service be a proud and lively career," struck me as the embodiment of Fred Meurer's stellar career.

Fred along with his wife Phyllis will now begin a new journey in life. An avid Oakland A's fan, Native American art collector and delicious ice cream maker, new adventures await this dedicated husband, father and grandfather. I wish Fred and his wife all the best in their well-deserved retirement years.

#### CONGRATULATING HELENE COMBS DREILING

##### HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2013*

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Helene Combs Dreiling on her election as President of the American Institute of Architects (AIA). This distinguished position is well deserved and reflective of her many professional achievements in the field of architecture.

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) is the professional membership organization for American architects, with more than 80,000 members across the country. In addition to her new position as President, Ms. Dreiling has served the AIA in numerous leadership roles.

Currently, Ms. Dreiling serves as Executive Director of the Virginia Center for Architecture, a Richmond-based non-profit that develops